



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

18 NOV REC'D
Action: CW

7 NOV 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS *Joe*

SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project, Louisiana

The briefing on the subject project which I received on Wednesday, November 10th, from General Read, Colonel Lee, and Mr. Chatry, Chief of Engineering of the New Orleans District, was informative and helpful: I now have a better understanding of what is intended in this large, complex, and costly project.

Apparently the New Orleans District was proceeding with this project on the basis of the barrier plan, whereupon it ran into opposition, and now is in the process of adopting a new plan, the high level plan. Some thought was expressed at the briefing that it would not be necessary to go back to Congress for reauthorization, that this could be accomplished under the Chief's discretionary authority. I have serious reservations about exercising the Chief's discretionary authority when a substantially different solution to the problem is proposed. Accordingly, I ask that you provide me with a copy of the draft EIS currently before the New Orleans District Engineer. Pending completion of our review and issuance of further guidance, the draft EIS which documents the District's proposal to abandon the barrier plan and adopt in its place the high level plan should be retained within the Corps by the District Engineer.

I would appreciate receiving the draft EIS right away. I would find it helpful to have your views on whether or not it would be appropriate to use the Chief's discretionary authority in this case. These views, together with an enumeration of the factors which you regard as compelling, may be submitted along with the draft EIS or as soon thereafter as practical.

Bell

William R. Gianelli
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

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